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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
USIBONLY-	USIB Departments Only
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
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NPIC/IEG (4/82)

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7 APRIL 1982

PROBABLE SATELLITE POST-RECOVERY OPERATION
KUSTANAY AIRFIELD WEST, USSR

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: A PROBABLE SATELLITE POST-RECOVERY OPERATION WAS OBSERVED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT KUSTANAY AIRFIELD WEST ON IMAGERY OF _____

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2. (S/D) REMARKS: A PROBABLE MEDIUM-RESOLUTION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE (MRPRS) CAPSULE WAS OBSERVED NEAR THE PROBABLE CONTROL TECHNICAL POINT (KTP) BUILDING AT KUSTANAY AIRFIELD WEST ON 19 MARCH. THE PROBABLE CAPSULE WAS APPROXIMATELY FIVE METERS LONG AND TWO METERS WIDE.

(S/NOFORN) ANALYST'S COMMENT -- ADDITIONAL SOURCES IDENTIFIED KUSTANAY WEST AS A PRIMARY RECOVERY FACILITY FOR UNMANNED SOVIET SATELLITES. A SATELLITE SERVICE GROUP (SLUZHBA KOSMOS), HOUSED AT THE AIRFIELD, REMOVE AND EVALUATE THE SENSITIVE ITEMS (FILM PACKAGE, RECORDING INSTRUMENTS, ETC.), AND PASS THE RECOVERED EQUIPMENT ON TO THE NEXT DESTINATION. IN A TYPICAL RECOVERY OPERATION, THE RETRIEVED SPACE CAPSULE IS TRANSPORTED TO THE AIRFIELD BY EITHER HOOK OR HIP HELICOPTER AND IS PLACED ON AN APRON NEAR THE KTP BUILDING. THE SENSITIVE MATERIAL IS REMOVED FROM THE CAPSULE AND EVALUATED IN THE KTP BUILDING. THE CAPSULE IS LEFT ON THE APRON UNTIL THE CAPSULE, PAYLOAD, AND PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL ARE LOADED ON A TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT (PROBABLY CUB) TO BE MOVED TO THE NEXT POINT.

(S/D) THE SOVIETS DEORBITED COSMOS 1342, AN MRPRS CAPSULE, AT 0517Z ON _____ THE PAYLOAD LANDED APPROXIMATELY 225 KM SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF KUSTANAY. THE CAPSULE WAS PROBABLY TRANSPORTED TO THE AIRFIELD BY THE HIP, WHICH WAS ON A HELICOPTER LANDING PAD. THE CAPSULE WAS THEN PROBABLY PLACED ON THE APRON NEAR THE KTP BUILDING WHERE IT WAS IMAGED. IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED IF THE POST-RECOVERY EVALUATION HAD OCCURRED;

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HOWEVER, PERSONNEL, SEVERAL SUPPORT VEHICLES, AND A TRUCK-MOUNTED CRANE WERE NEAR A CUB PARKED ON AN APRON NEAR THE HELICOPTER LANDING AREA. THIS AIRCRAFT WAS PROBABLY BEING PREPARED TO TRANSPORT THE CAPSULE AND PERSONNEL. THE PROBABLE CAPSULE WAS NOT OBSERVED ON IMAGERY OF

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3. (S) _____, COORDINATES 53-12-26N 063-32-57E

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4. (TSR/_____ COLLATERAL REFERENCES:

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DOD/_____ KUSTANAY WEST AIRFIELD, 15 FEB 78 (C)

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DOD/_____ KUSTANAY WEST AIRFIELD, 13 JUL 78

(C/_____

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DOD/_____ RECOVERY AND EVALUATING SECTION FOR EARTH SATELLITES, KUSTANAY AIRFIELD, 19 DEC 77 (C)

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DOD/_____ 437TH SEPARATE HELICOPTER REGIMENT,

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6 MAY 75 (C/_____

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DEFSMAC S/DQ/206-82, DTG 191716Z MAR 82, COSMOS 1342 DEORBITED ON 19 MARCH 1982 (SECRET)

(TSR/_____ INSET

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FTD/_____ RFB-22/0005/82 BIIR AEROSPACE AND WEAPON

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SYSTEMS, USSR, COSMOS 1313 & 1316, JANUARY 1982 (TSR/_____

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